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Message Text

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53
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01 SSO-00

CCO-00 RSC-01 /033 W
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O 091235Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7363
SECSTATE PARTY ABOARD SAM 86970 IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TUNIS 6923

DEPT PASS NSCE FOR GEN SKOWCROFT AND NESSEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (KSSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJ: SECVISIT TUNIS: FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI'S
RESPONSE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DEPARTURE
STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 9, 1974

FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATED (BY STATE DEPT INTERPRETER) AND
UNCLEARED TRANSCRIPT OF FOREIGN
MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO KISSINGER'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT
PREPARED AFTER DEPARTURE:

QUOTE: LADIES AND GENTLEMENT,AS YOU SEE WE
WERE VERY GLAD TO WELCOME SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER
AND MRS. KISSINGER. THIS WAS A VISIT MARKED BY FRIEND-
SHIP WHICH SHOWS VERY WELL THIS DURABLE, OLD AND SOLID
FRIENDSHIP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN TUNISIA AND THE
U.S.

THE TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE WERE AS
ALWAYS EXTREMELY INTERESTING, PARTICULARLY ON ACCOUNT
OF THE TRIP HE HAS JUST UNDERTAKEN AND THE MANY
ISSUES WITH WHICH HE HAS BEEN DEALING. AND ALSO BECAUSE
OF HIS STYLE OF DIPLOMACY.

OUR TALKS WERE VERY INTERESTING AND I WOULD
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SAY EVEN VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY ENABLED US

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TO GAIN AN INSIGHT, A CLEAR INSIGHT, INTO THE SITUATION
AS IT EXISTS IN THE ARAB WORLD, AND ALSO IN THE U.S.
AS AN AFTERMATH OF THE RABAT SUMMIT MEETING. THE
SITUATION AS IT NOW EXISTS IS QUITE DIFFICULT, AND
THE TASK OF THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE IN AN EFFORT
TO REACH SOME MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN THE ARAB STATES AND
ISRAEL HAS BECOME VERY DIFFICULT. WE ARE FACING A
SITUATION WHICH IS MORE DIFFICULT BUT AT THE SAME IT IS
MORE CLEAR,AND THEREFORE WE MUST ALL ACT WITH DETER-
MINIATION SO AS TO FIND THE WAY TO CONCILIATION.

TUNISIA AS WELL AS THE OTHER ARAB NATIONS ARE
DEEPLY DEDICATED TO PEACE AND WISH TO FIND A PEACEFUL
SOLUTION TO THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM WHICH POSES A THREAT
NOT ONLY TO THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA, BUT TO THE WHOLE
WORLD.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS ASSURED US THAT HE
WILL CONTINUE TO ACT TOWARD CONCILIATION WITH A VIEW
TO FINDING A JUST AND DURABLE SOLUTION TO THE
PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST. WE ARE PARTICULARLY
GRATIFIED BY HIS GOOD AND SOUND DETERMINATION.

PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA SAID YESTERDAY TO SECRETARY
KISSINGER THAT TUNISIA WILL DO ALL THAT IS POSSIBLE ON
ITS PART IN ORDER TO HELP THE U.S. AND BOTH TUNISIA
AND ITS PRESIDENT CONSIDER THAT THE U.S. CAN PLAY AN
ESSENTIAL PART TO ASSURE THE ATTAINMENT OF THIS PEACE
THAT IS SO MUCH WISHED FOR IN THIS REGION.

WITHOUT SAYING THAT WE ARE OPTIMISTIC REGARDING
THE EVOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EASTERN SITUATION, STILL WE
ARE NOT PESSIMISTIC. AND SINCE SECRETARY KISSINGER
IS ALWAYS OPTIMISTIC, HIS OPTIMISM IS DEFINITELY CON-
TAGIOUS. AND WE WISH HIM THE GREATEST MEASURE OF
SUCCESS IN THE CONTINUATION OF HIS MISSION BECAUSE
IT DOES CONCERN ALL OF MANKIND.

REGARDING BILATERAL RELATIONS I HAVE NOT
MUCH TO SAY EXCEPT THEY ARE THE VERY BEST POSSIBLE
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AND THAT THE WEATHER INDICATOR IS ALWAYS IN THE
POSITION OF THE FAIREST WEATHER.
UNQUOTE SEELYE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, SPEECHES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TUNIS06923
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740323-0604
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741155/aaaabvcj.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 NOV 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <13-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECVISIT TUNIS: FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI'S RESPONSE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DEPARTURE
TAGS: OVIP, TS, US, (KSSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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